

# Asia Protected Areas Partnership



## Protected areas in Asia

Asia is the most populous region in the world, with a remarkable cultural and natural heritage. It includes several megadiverse countries and is home to a number of global biodiversity “hotspots.”

For centuries, protected areas have been an integral part of Asian landscapes and seascapes and have played a vital role in conserving biodiversity and the ecosystem services on which many communities depend. Protected areas help reduce the risk of natural disasters, provide clean water and air, enhance food security, mitigate climate change, and provide jobs, homes and livelihoods to tens of thousands of people throughout Asia.

Protected areas, however, are increasingly under threat. As Asia's economy and populations have grown, so too have the pressures on the region's natural

environment. Habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive alien species, pollution, over-exploitation and climate change all threaten Asia's protected areas and the many benefits they provide.

## The Asia Protected Areas Partnership

The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) has been designed as a key platform to help governments and other stakeholders collaborate for more effective management of protected areas in the region.

APAP was initiated in 2013 at the first-ever Asia Parks Congress held in Japan, and formally launched the following year at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Australia. It is chaired by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and co-chaired by an APAP member organisation on a rotational basis. The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, is the current co-chair.

Promoting regional collaboration, best practices and innovative solutions for Asia's protected areas

## APAP Objectives

The goal of APAP is to facilitate improved conservation outcomes for protected areas in Asia by:

1. Promoting best practices and innovative solutions to the challenges facing the region's protected areas, through knowledge sharing and capacity building;
2. Strengthening transboundary and regional cooperation;
3. Raising awareness of the multiple benefits of Asia's protected areas, both within and outside the region.

APAP also aspires to support national and regional efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, a global set of goals and targets which has been adopted by countries around the world to halt the loss of biodiversity.



Sanriku Fukko National Park in Japan was established after the devastating tsunami as part of efforts to protect the coastline.

***“The establishment of this group represents a new commitment from government agencies across Asia to work together on protected area issues, and demonstrates a growing recognition of the critical role that protected areas play in ensuring human wellbeing.”***

– APAP Co-chair: Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia

## Join APAP!

APAP is an informal, voluntary network, and there are no membership fees. *Country Membership* is open to government protected area agencies from Asia, working at national or sub-national level. *Associate Membership* is available to other institutions that work on protected areas and meet APAP's criteria.

The Partnership currently includes country members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. By joining, your organisation will have an opportunity to participate in technical workshops and experience sharing events, on topics such as management effectiveness evaluation, participatory management approaches, benefit sharing, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. APAP also aims to:

- Facilitate access to the latest protected area information and guidelines
- Support the adoption of global best practice standards
- Facilitate dialogue between countries interested in transboundary protected area management
- Assist with the development of funding proposals for regional projects and initiatives
- Facilitate studies on protected areas and make the results accessible to a wide audience
- Strengthen the voice of the Asian protected area community

*For more information, please visit*

[www.asiapapartnership.org](http://www.asiapapartnership.org)

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